

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00761 050533Z

17

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

SCA-01 /011 W

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R 050440Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

UNCLAS KABUL 0761

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, AF

SUBJ: FALSE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IN VISA APPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 016879 AND 021388

1. IN AFGHANISTAN THE LIKELIHOOD OF PERPETRATING FRAUD THROUGH THE USE OF FALSE IDENTIFICATION IS RELATIVELY SLIGHT. IDENTITY DOCUMENTS ARE CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY GOA, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT DOCUMENTATION IN AN ASSUMED NAME OR (MORE EASILY) CHANGED DATE OF BIRTH COULD BE ISSUED WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF A GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIAL.

2. CONFUSION AS TO NAMING CUSTOMS OR LEGAL PROCEDURES, RATHER THAN FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTATION, IS MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN USG BEING MISLED BY AFGHAN VISA OR FEDERAL BENEFIT APPLICANTS. IN AFGHANISTAN THE NAME SAYED MAY BE AFFIXED BEFORE OTHER GIVEN NAMES OF A DECENDENT OF THE PROPHET, WHILE "HAJI" MAY PRECEDE THE NAME OF ONE WHO HAS MADE THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. SIMILARLY, SARDAR OR KHAN MAY BE ADDED BEFORE OR AFTER NAMES TO INDICATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE FORMER ROYAL FAMILY OR RESPECT. THESE HONORIFIES MAY OR MAY NOT APPEAR AS PART OF THE NAME ON AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT, SO VARIOUS POSSIBLE NAME COMBINATIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED. SINCE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, THERE HAS BEEN A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO ERADICATE CERTAIN TIES TO THE "CORRUPT" PAST, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF "TRIBAL" OR FAMILY NAMES.. CONSEQUENTLY, AN AFGHAN WHO TWO YEARS AGO BORE A PASSPORT IN THE NAME OF MOHAMMED ALI AKBARI MIGHT NOW APPLY

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FOR A VISA WITH A PASSPORT BEARING THE NAME OF MOHAMMED ALI.

FURTHER CONFUSION CAN ARISE FROM THE TRADITION, ESPECIALLY IN
MORE SPARELY SETTLED AREAS, OF GIVING PEOPLE SINGLE NAMES,
E.G., NASRULAH MIGHT BE THE ONLY NAME A PERSON MIGHT HAVE.

3. EMBASSY KABUL HAS ATTEMPTED TO COPE WITH THESE PROBLEMS BY
REQUIRING APPLICANTS' FAMILY AS WELL AS FATHER'S NAME,
BUT THE NEW NAMING SYSTEM OBVIOUSLY GIVES APPLICANTS
GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO CONCEAL INFORMATION CONCERNING PREVIOUS
VISA REFUSALS.
ELIOT

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Disposition Event:
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